

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A¹
The TDM busses 18 provide communication for the digital modem server PMS 12c. According to one embodiment of the invention, the TDM busses ~~[16e]~~ 18 support over 2,000 DS0 connections and share the traffic load communicated on them.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A²
In step 60, the program invokes the ISP's authentication server for authenticating the user. A typical authentication server is a [RADIUS] Remote Authentication Dial In Use Service (RADIUS) server.

The authentication server preferably includes a database of users and user configuration information detailing the type of service to deliver to each user. Service configuration information may include the type of compression, QoA level, QoS level, and/or a VPN ID assigned to the user, as is described in further detail below. According to one embodiment of the invention, the configuration information in the authentication server may override default configuration information provided through the call policy database.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A³
FIG. 5 is a schematic layout diagram of a routing table 70 according to one embodiment of the invention. The routing table 70 includes a list of all of the IP destination addresses reachable from the FMs 10, and all known routes to each destination address. The routing table may be created based on standard routing protocols including ~~[RIP, OSPF, BGP4]~~ Routing Information Protocol (RIP), Open

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#3
Shortest Path First (OSPF), Border Gateway Protocol 4 (BGP4), and the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 42, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A4
According to one embodiment of the invention, a fault on the primary port 503 is detected via hardware by monitoring the activity of the port. If there is no activity (e.g. no change) on the port after a programmed period of time (e.g. 290 milliseconds), the protection relay [520] 510 automatically switches to the backup port 505. The APS software keeps the data in the backup port 505 up-to-date with the primary port. Thus, when there is a switch from the primary port to the backup port, no loss of data is contemplated. If the backup port is on the same card, then the same memory is used. If the backup port is on a different backup card, the APS software preferably writes the data to both cards at the same time.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 43, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A5
FIG. 25 is a schematic block diagram of a switch incorporating a 1:2 protection switching according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention. Port 1 has a first primary connection 540 and port 2 has a second primary connection 542. Instead of each port having its own backup connection, like in the embodiment of FIG. [25] 24, both port 1 and port 2 share a backup connection 544.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 55, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A6
Another function provided by GFI is distributed multicasting. To send a packet to a multicast group, only one packet is created. When the packet is sent to a multicast group, the packet is sent to the

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backplane. Then, the packet is [~~propagated~~] propagated to the multicast group. When recipients get the packet, it gets [~~propagated~~] propagated in the recipient card to the appropriate media ports without having to copy the packet.
